

Appln. No.: 09/807,295
Preliminary Amendment dated December 21, 2005
Reply to Office action of September 21, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 45-65 were pending in the present application. The Office Action dated September 21, 2005 has been considered along with the references cited therein. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 45 was objected to do to a noted informality. The typographical error has been corrected. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 45-65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Okamoto et al, (U.S. Patent No. 6,118,874), in view of Everett et al, (U.S. Patent No. 6,220,510.) This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 45 recites an IC card including an electronic wallet unit for management of electronic value information, an electronic wallet storage unit that is the intrinsic storage area of the electronic wallet unit, an electronic information registration unit registering said electronic value information to an electronic safe unit connected through a network and acquiring a registration certificate from the electronic safe unit, an electronic information recovery unit for acquiring the electronic value information by presenting said registration certificate to the electronic safe unit, an electronic information dividing unit for dividing the

electronic value information to the desired number of partial electronic information pieces to which an identifier for recovering the electronic value information to the original electronic value information is respectively added, and an electronic information combining unit for recovering the electronic value information from the divided electronic information pieces. The electronic registration unit acquires a plurality of partial electronic information pieces by requesting division of the electronic value information to the electronic information dividing unit and also acquires respective partial information registration certificates by registering the entire part or a part of the partial electronic information to the electronic safe unit. The electronic information recovery unit acquires respective corresponding partial electronic information pieces by presenting the entire part or a part of the partial information registration certificates to the electronic safe unit that has issued the respective partial information registration certificates, and the electronic information combining unit recovers the electronic value information from said obtained partial electronic information pieces. This is not taught disclosure made obvious by the prior art of record.

According to the features of the present claimed invention as recited in claim 45, the electronic value

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information, such as electronic cash or electric tickets, are divided. However, as reflected in independent claim 45, the encryption and decoding keys are not divided. In contrast, according to Okamoto, only the encryption key is divided and recovered. There is no disclosure that would teach or suggest in Okamoto of dividing the electronic value information as recited in claim 45.

Applicant respectfully submits that Everett does not remedy the deficiency noted above with respect to Okamoto. Everett is cited in the Office Action as disclosing the IC card. Everett contains no disclosure regarding the claimed electronic information dividing unit for dividing the electronic value information or the key storage unit and encrypting/decoding unit as recited in claim 45.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 45 is patentable over the prior art of record, whether taken alone or as proposed in the Office Action.

Claim 46-65 depend from and include the recitations of claim 45. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 46-65 are patentable in and of themselves as they depend from and include the recitations of claim 45 which is patentable for the reasons discussed above.

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Additionally, with respect to claims 60, and 63-65, the Office Action does not set forth a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103. In particular, the Office Action cites no specific teachings of the claimed invention as reflected in those claims, and states only that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to make the claim invention, without citing to any teaching or support in the prior art for any of the recitations in the claim. For at least this reason, these rejections are improper and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully request consideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of record. Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and early notice to this effect is most earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at 202-628-5197.

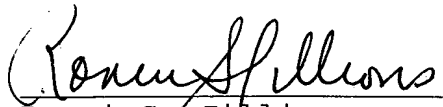
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Respectfully submitted,

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